

At the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, our focus is the more than 20,000 farm families that work to produce our food and preserve our rural heritage. Agriculture touches everyone - everyday - and is the tool by which we feed our families, nation and the world.

As such, it is imperative that we have a firm grasp of where the industry is today, and where we want it to be in the future. The diversity of products and issues that affect agriculture would come as a great surprise to many people. For example, did you know that the amount of honey produced in 2000 was 62 percent higher than in 1999, and that the value of that honey was more than double that of the previous year?

Thanks to State Statistician Dale R. King, Deputy State Statistician S. Radley Edwards, and the staff of the West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service, we have an accurate picture of agriculture in the Mountain State.

This booklet represents a year's worth of work by the Agriculture Statistics staff, and a lifetime of work by many of West Virginia's farmers.

Sincerely,
Gus R. Douglass
Commissioner of Agriculture